

REPORT PAVES WAY FOR RACE HARMONY

Hopeful Findings Result of Bloody Chicago Riot in July, 1919.

NEGRO BAITING SCORED

Lowden Commission Asks for Mutual Understanding and Good Will.

STUDY EACH VIEWPOINT

Fact That Black Alone Came to America Under Duress Is Emphasized.

Out of the Chicago race riot of July, 1919, has come a new and comprehensive view of the racial situation in America. For the first time, probably, a serious and scientific effort was made to seek out what was wrong in the relations of the whites and the blacks and how that wrong could be adjusted or corrected. For the first time the point of view of the negro of the twentieth century was sought for and studied, along with the point of view of the whites, and an effort was made to reconcile the two or to find peaceful parallel pathways.

The results of the inquiry and report made by the Chicago Commission on Race Relations, appointed by Frank O. Lowden when he was Governor of Illinois, have just been published, and may be considered to be as interesting and important to the people of New York as to the people of Chicago. It is predicted that the findings of the commission will mean

much to those engaged in social work and those who are deeply concerned with the problems facing American citizenship.

Former Gov. Lowden believes that the recommendations of the Government, if acted upon, will make repetitions of the appalling tragedy which shocked the whole country in July, 1919, impossible, and should remove many causes of friction and misunderstanding between the whites and blacks of the United States. Many fancied grievances held by the one or the other disappeared in the light of truth the commission was able to throw upon the subject, and Gov. Lowden, who writes an introduction to the commission's report, believes that ways and means may be found for white persons and negroes to live happily side by side in American citizenship.

Negroes Not Menace.
Nothing else is possible, he says, and therefore a way must be found. Gov. Lowden says that it is a proved fact that negroes in large numbers are not in themselves a menace to the peace of our large cities. He discusses the race problem thus:

"There is no domestic problem in America which has given thoughtful men more concern than the problem of the relations between the white and negro races. In earlier days the colonization of the negro, as in Liberia, was put forward as a solution. That idea was abandoned long ago. It is now recognized generally that the two races are here in America to stay."

"It is also certain that the problem will not be solved by methods of violence. Every race that, every instance in which men of either race defy legal authority and take the law into their own hands, but postpones the day when the two races shall live together amicably. The law must be maintained and enforced vigorously and completely before any real progress can be made towards race relations."

"Means must be found, therefore, whereby the two races can live together on terms of amity. This will be possible only if the two races are brought to understand each other better. It is believed that such understanding will result in each having a higher degree of respect for the other, and that such respect will form the basis for greatly improved relations between the races."

"The Commission on Race Relations, composed of distinguished representatives of both races, has made the most thorough and complete survey of the race situation that I have seen anywhere. While its field of study was necessarily limited to Chicago, the conditions there may be regarded as fairly typical of conditions in other large cities where there is a large colored population."

The report does not pretend to have discovered any new formula by which all race trouble will disappear. The subject is too complex for any such simple solution. It finds certain facts, however, the mere recognition of which

will go a long way toward allaying race feeling. It finds that in that portion of Chicago in which colored persons have lived longest and in the largest numbers relatively there has been the minimum of friction. This is a fact of the first importance. For it tends to show that the presence of negroes in large numbers in our great cities is not a menace in itself.

Happy Conclusion Reached.

The commission, made up of representative colored men, as well as white men, came to a happy and unanimous conclusion, and throughout their report breathes a strong belief in the possibility of wiping out bitterness and causes of anger leading to riots and lynchings and such ghastly uprisings as disgraced Chicago and other cities. Before uttering its recommendations, the commission says: "Countless schemes have been proposed for solving or dismissing this problem, most of them impracticable or impossible. Of this class are (1) the deportation of 12,000,000 negroes to Africa, (2) the establishment of a separate negro State in the United States, (3) complete separation and segregation from the whites and the establishment of a caste system or peasant class and (4) hope for a solution through the dying out of the negro race. The only effect of such proposals is to confuse thinking on the vital issues involved, and to foster impatience and intolerance. Our negro problem must be solved in harmony with the fundamental law of the nation, and with its free institutions. These prevent any deportation, as well as any restriction of his freedom of movement within the United States. The problem must not be regarded as sectional or political, and it should be studied and discussed seriously, frankly and with an open mind."

"It is important for our white citizens to remember that the negroes alone of all our immigrants came to America against their will by the special compelling invitation of the whites; that the institution of slavery was produced, expanded and maintained in the United States by the white people for their own benefit, and that they likewise created the conditions that followed emancipation. Our negro problem, therefore, is not of the negro's making. No group in our population is less responsible for its existence. But every group is responsible for its continuance, and every citizen, regardless of color or racial origin, is in honor and conscience bound to seek and forward its solution."

"Centuries of the negro slave trade and of slavery as an institution have created, and are often deemed to justify, the deep seated prejudice against negroes. They placed a stamp upon the relations of the two races which it will require many years to erase. The memory of these relations has profoundly affected and still affects the industrial, commercial and social life of the Southern States."

"The great body of anti-negro public

opinion, preserved in the literature and traditions of the white race during the long, unhappy progress of the negro from savagery through slavery to citizenship, has exercised a persistent and powerful effect, both conscious and unconscious, upon the thinking and the behavior of the white group generally. Racial misunderstanding has been fostered by the ignorance and indifference of many white citizens concerning the marvelous industry and courage shown by the negroes and the success they have achieved in their fifty-nine years of freedom."

"The negro race must develop, as all races have developed, from lower to higher planes of living, and must base its progress upon industry, efficiency and moral character. Training along these lines and general opportunities for education are the fundamental needs. As the problem is national in its scope and gravity, the solution must be national. And the nation must make sure that the negro is educated for citizenship."

"It is of the first importance that old prejudices against the negroes, based upon their misfortunes, and not on their faults, be supplanted with respect, encouragement and cooperation, and with a recognition of their heroic struggles for self-improvement and of their worthy achievements as loyal American citizens."

"Both races need to understand that their rights and duties are mutual and equal, and that their interests in the common good are identical; that relations of amity are the only protection against race clashes; that these relations cannot be forced, but will come naturally as the leaders of each race develop within their own ranks a realization of the gravity of this problem and a vital interest in its solution, and an attitude of confidence, respect and friendliness toward the people of the other race."

Understanding Needed.

"All our citizens, regardless of color or racial origin, need to be taught by their leaders that there is a common standard of superiority for them all in self-respect, honesty, industry, fairness, forbearance and, above all, in generous helpfulness. There is no help or healing in appraising past responsibilities, or in present apportioning of praise or blame. The past is of value only as it aids in understanding the present; and an understanding of the facts of the problem—a magnanimous understanding by both races—is the first step toward its solution."

"The commission prefaces its recommendations with this comment: 'Each member of this commission feels that he has more understanding and less prejudice than before his work begun.' To the police, militia, State's Attorney and the courts the commission recommends a detailed plan to deal with possible rioting so as to nip it in the bud, and that equal protection be given to both white and negro neighborhoods."

and that police and militia be distributed with special reference to the main transit lines used by negroes in getting to and from work; that all persons arrested in connection with rioting, white or black, without regard to color, be promptly arrested, tried and, if guilty, speedily punished; that action be taken to suppress bombing of white or negro houses, and that fines and sentences be levied with more equity and equality and not so much to the prejudice of negroes; and that the courts discountenance the facetiousness which is too often common in dealing with cases in which negroes are involved."

Would Wipe Out Vice.

"We recommend that the negro residence areas be rid of vice resorts whose present exceptional prevalence in such areas is due to official laxity; better cooperation between the city and park police in and near parks and bathing beaches, etc., and in the speedy punishment of persons guilty of stoning houses molesting individuals and committing other depredations calculated to arouse race antagonism."

"We recommend that the most stringent means possible be applied to control the importation, sale and possession of firearms and other deadly weapons."

"In order to facilitate police supervision of so-called 'athletic clubs,' we recommend that all such clubs be required to file with the city clerk statements of their purposes and, at stated intervals, lists of their members and officers, with their addresses."

"We recommend that the authorities exercise their powers to condemn and raise all houses unfit for human habitation, many of which the commission has found to exist in the negro residence areas on the South and West sides."

"We recommend better enforcement of health and sanitary laws and regulations in the care, repair, and upkeep of streets and alleys and the collection and disposal of rubbish and garbage in areas of negro residence, where the commission has found these matters to be shamefully neglected."

"We recommend that the park and other proper authorities (a) put an end to the present gross discrimination by white persons which practically bars negroes out of certain recreation centers near their own congested residence areas; and (b) that a recreation center of adequate size and facilities be established."

"We recommend that in the areas where the main part of the negro popu-

lation lives, and where elementary school accommodations are notably deficient, buildings, equipment and teaching forces be provided which shall be at least equal to the average standard for the city, in order that the present conditions of overcrowding, arrangement of pupils in shifts and the assignment of too large classes to teachers may be remedied."

Night Schools Favored.

"We recommend the establishment of night schools and community centers in sections of the city not now adequately provided with such facilities."

"Having found that many negro children who quit school at an early age, as in the case of similar white children, appear later as criminals and delinquents, we urge strict enforcement of regulations as to working permits for such children, and we especially recommend that truancy officers give attention to school attendance by the children of negro families migrating here from the South."

"We are convinced in our inquiry: (a) that measures involving or approaching deportation or segregation are illegal, impracticable and cannot solve, but would accentuate, the race problem and postpone its just and orderly solution by the process of adjustment; (b) that the moral responsibility for race rioting does not rest upon hoodlums alone, but also upon all citizens, white or black, who sanction force or violence in interracial relations or who do not condemn and combat the spirit of racial hatred thus expressed; (c) that race friction and antagonism are largely due to the fact that each race too readily misunderstands and misinterprets the other's conduct and aspirations."

"We therefore urge upon all citizens, white and negro, active opposition to the employment of force or violence in interracial relations and to the spirit of antagonism and hatred. We recommend dispassionate, intelligent, and sympathetic consideration by each race of the other's needs and aims."

"We warn both whites and negroes against the acceptance or circulation by either of reports about the other whose truth has not been fully established. We urge all citizens, white or negro, vigorously to oppose all propaganda of malicious or selfish origin."

"We commend race contacts in cultural and cooperative efforts as tending strongly to mutual understanding and the promotion of good race relations."

"We condemn the provocation or fo-

tering of race antagonism by associations or organizations ostensibly founded or conducted for purposes of patriotism or local improvements or the like."

Permanent Body Favored.

"We recommend as of special importance that a permanent local body representing both races be charged with investigating situations likely to produce clashes, with collecting and disseminating information tending to preserve the peace, and with unfounded rumors, with bringing sound public sentiment to bear upon the settlement of racial disputes, and with promoting the spirit of interracial tolerance and cooperation."

"We condemn and urge the discontinuance of the practice of property owners who arbitrarily advance rents mere because negroes become tenants."

"We recommend that white persons seek information from responsible and representative negroes as the basis of their judgments about negro traits, characteristics and tendencies and thereby counteract the common disposition arising from erroneous tradition and literature to regard all negroes as belonging to one homogeneous group and as being inferior in mentality and morality, given to emotionalism and having an innate tendency toward crime, especially sex crime."

"We recommend to negroes the promulgation of sound racial doctrines among the uneducated members of their group and the discouragement of propaganda and agitators seeking to inflame racial animosity and incite negroes to violence."

"We urge negroes to contribute more freely of their money and personal effort to the social agencies developed by public spirited members of their group; also to contribute to the general social agencies of the community."

"We point out as injustice and a cause of racial antagonism the practice of some employers in hiring negroes as strikebreakers and discharging them when the strike is settled in order to permit the return of former white employees. We find that the employment of negro girls at a smaller wage than white girls is a cause of racial antagonism."

"We strongly condemn the efforts of self-seeking agitators, negro or white, who use race sentiment to establish separate unions in trades where existing

unions admit negroes to equal membership with whites."

"We recommend that negroes completely abandon the practice of seeking petty advance payments in wages and the practice of laying off work without cause."

"We recommend that negroes avail themselves wherever possible of opportunities in apprentice schools or classes." The foregoing are some of the principal recommendations of this interesting report, pronounced the most hopeful deliverance in at least a decade on the possibility of betterment of feeling between the majority and the minority races of this country.

GLENS FALLS PASTOR VISITS BERLIN; ROBBED

Returning After 8 Years, Loses Watch and Chain.

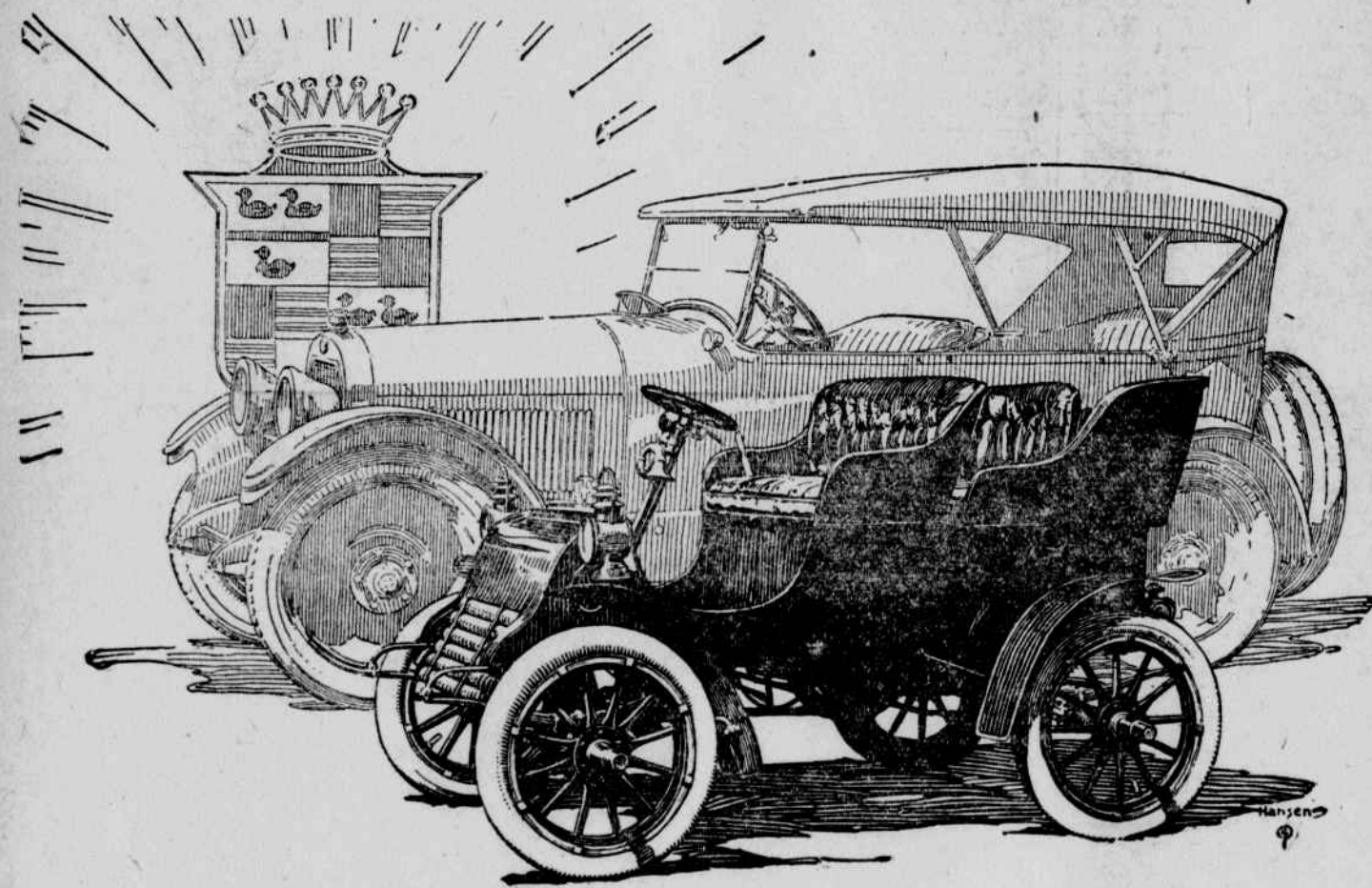
Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

BERLIN, Sept. 19.—The Rev. John R. Crossen of Glens Falls, N. Y., former pastor of the American Church in Berlin, was robbed of his watch and chain on the day of his return to Germany after eight years. He was aboard ship, returning to America when the war began in 1914. Dr. Crossen has held pastorates in Pasadena, Cal.; Chicago, Pittsburgh and a number of other cities of the United States. He expects to remain for several weeks in Berlin revisiting old acquaintances made during his pastorate here.

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